

TO: Planning and Zoning Commission
CC: Peter Ratkiewich, Director, Department of Public Works
FROM: Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director
DATE: October 13, 2020

RE: 8-24 Request for Sewer Extension to serve a portion of Whitney St. and Roseville Rd. and all of Fernwood Rd., Pamela Place, Plumtree Lane and Ledgemoor Lane

Proposal: To extend the town sewer system to serve 38 properties located on Whitney St., Roseville Rd. Fernwood Rd., Pamela Place, Plumtree Lane and Ledgemoor Lane

Comments: The "Town of Westport Wastewater Facilities Plan and Report" prepared by Stearns & Wheler, LLC in March of 2002 was written with the directive to study our current wastewater treatment system capacity and determine and rank which areas of the community the sewer system could be expanded into based on a specific set of criteria. Amongst the criteria listed was

1. Septic system repair rate;
2. Availability of septic system reserve area; and,
3. Suitability for the soil for septic systems.

In reviewing this proposal for sewer expansion, we have determined that 24 of the 38 properties, or 63%, are on property containing wetlands. Five septic failures have been recorded and another seven properties have no data which could mean they are served by a cess pool. Another 20 properties have septs that were either renovated, altered, repaired or are new. Using the criteria noted above the sewer extension request is warranted since all conditions are met.

Furthermore, the Wastewater Facilities plan mapped the areas of town based on the ranking of the properties as they were measured by the three criteria listed. That mapping entitled, "Sewer Service Area Evaluation" which accompanied the report, shows that all of these properties fall into areas listed as "moderate," "moderate to high" or "high."

Anecdotally, we have reviewed numerous properties within this proposed area of expansion over the years and can testify to the poor soil conditions on-site due to not only wetlands but also high groundwater and flooding.

For all these reasons, the Conservation Department supports the sewer extension into the neighbors as requested in the proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.